

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR (ROMAN KARMEN)

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTARY FILM ON US

REF: MOSCOW 1044

1. DEPT IN PRINCIPLE FAVORS KARMEN'S PROPOSED PROJECT AND IS PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE HIM VISA AS EXCHANGE VISITOR FOR PURPOSE OF EXPLORING IT FURTHER. AS PART OF THIS EXPLORATION, WE WOULD EXPECT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT WITH APPROPRIATE GOVT OFFICIALS HERE.

2. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY THAT CURRENT SITUATION IS SUCH THAT KARMEN PROBABLY WOULD PRODUCE DOCUMENTARY ON US WHICH WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY POSITIVE ON BALANCE AND SEEN BY MILLIONS OF SOVIET CITIZENS. AT SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE RECIPROCITY REMAINS AN IMPORTANT MATTER IN VIEW OF PAST HISTORY ON THIS SUBJECT. IT MAY BE THAT KARMEN'S PROJECT, WHEN IT BECOMES KNOWN AMONG FILM CIRCLES HERE, WOULD REKINDLE INTEREST OF PEOPLE LIKE JAMES FLEMING OR LESTER

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COWAN IN PROJECTS THEY HAVE HAD WITH SOVIETS. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO HANDLE RECIPROCITY QUESTION SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

3. THEREFORE, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO LEARN FROM KARMEN WHICH SOVIET ORGANIZATION (WE ASSUME MOSFILM) WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR FACILITATING FILM PRODUCTION ON SOVIET UNION BY A US PRODUCER. EMBASSY SHOULD THEN MAKE CLEAR TO SUCH ORGANIZATION THAT WE EXPECT US FILM PRODUCER WHO MIGHT WANT TO DO COMPARABLE FILM ON SOVIET UNION WOULD RECEIVE COMPARABLE TREATMENT THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GRANT HERE. IN OUR VIEW, THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE EXPRESSION FROM SOVIET SIDE OF THE INCREASINGLY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. INGERSOLL

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